

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Fredericksburg (City)</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>10/15/66</b>

<b>1. NAME</b>
COMMON: <b>RISING SUN TAVERN</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC:

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>1306 Caroline Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Fredericksburg</b>			
STATE: <b>Virginia 22401</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>Fredericksburg (City)</b>	CODE: <b>630</b>

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>		
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>2705 Park Avenue</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Richmond</b>	STATE: <b>Virginia 23220</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>City Hall</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Fredericksburg</b>	STATE: <b>Virginia 22401</b>	CODE: <b>51</b>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>		
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>HABS</b>		
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1934</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>D.C.</b>	CODE: <b>11</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	COUNTY: <b>Fredericksburg (City)</b>	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Rising Sun Tavern was owned and, traditionally, built about 1760 by Charles Washington, the youngest brother of George Washington. It was known as the Washington Tavern when Charles kept it and also served as Fredericksburg's postmaster.

In the hands of a later host, George Weedon, the tavern became a political as well as social center. Weedon was a former German officer from Hamburg who fought in the French and Indian campaigns and settled in Fredericksburg. It was a favorite meeting place of Virginia Revolutionary patriots: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, George Mason, Hugh Mercer, John Marshall, the Lees, and other colonial leaders on their way from the South to Philadelphia. Here George Mason, George Wythe, Edmund Pendleton, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Ludwell Lee met on January 13, 1777, and outlined the bill that Jefferson later phrased and Madison presented to the Virginia Assembly in 1785 as the Statute of Virginia for Religious Liberty. The Peace Ball, attended by Washington and his mother, his officers, LaFayette, Rochambeau, Admiral de Gras, and others to celebrate the victory at Yorktown, was held in 1781 in the assembly room which has since burned.

The tavern was a social center for the colonial town. Dinners and balls were held here, and traveling entertainers stopped to perform. It was the town post office and stagecoach stop.

The Rising Sun Tavern ceased to be operated as a tavern sometime prior to the Civil War. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities acquired the property in 1907, and began a program of careful restoration and refurnishing. The tavern is a story-and-a-half frame building covered with broad hand-beveled clapboards. It is approached by a small stone porch which has been restored. The gabled roof is pierced by three very small dormers and built-in end chimneys. Despite its age, the building has never been structurally altered and is considered an architectural gem.

The large number of tavern pieces added in the refurnishing project make the Rising Sun unusually interesting and authentic in its illustration of colonial tavern life. The old post office has been restored with its letter slots and an original account sheet of the mail and early envelopes. In the process of restoration some of the original railings from the 18th century bar were found under the plaster, and the entire bar has now been rebuilt.

Furnishings and accessories of the late 18th century English and American origin are of the period when the tavern flourished. Among the many interesting items are gaming tables, a large and important collection of English and American pewter, an original license to

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☒ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by the youngest brother of George Washington, Rising Sun Tavern fulfilled an important function in 18th-century life as a political and social meeting place for leading figures of the day. The one-and-a-half story frame building was a meeting place for colonial leaders on their way from the South to Philadelphia to attend the Continental Congress. Here in 1777 George Mason, George Wythe, Edmund Pendleton, Thomas Lee, and Thomas Jefferson outlined the bill that Jefferson later phrased as the Statute of Virginia for Religious Liberty. The Peace Ball, attended by George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, the Count de Rochambeau, and others to celebrate the Revolutionary victory at Yorktown, was held in 1781 in the assembly room which has since burned.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7 a. CONT'D.

keep the tavern which is dated 1793, a stage coach sign dated 1775, and many other accessories used in operating a "proper tavern."

The Rising Sun Tavern is notable as an illustration of the important role played by taverns in early American life when they were community travel and social centers and meeting places where important political questions were discussed and often resolved.

b. BOUNDARIES: Rising Sun Tavern sits on a lot which has a fronting of about 60 feet and a depth of approximately 100 feet. It is located at 1306 Caroline Street, which is between Fauquier and Hawke Streets in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elise Lathrop, Historic Houses of Early America, (New York, 1936); Work Projects Administration, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion (New York, 1940); Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, "Rising Sun Tavern," Information Leaflet.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 18 ' 25 "	77 ° 27 ' 44 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CQDE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Frank S. Melvin	
ORGANIZATION Virginia State Office, National Park Service	DATE 6/30/72
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 10008	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia 23240
	CODE 51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date 9/9/69

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10/15/66

SEE INSTRUCTIONS